

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing multimedia message service (MMS) interoperability between a first ~~carrier~~ mobile telephone service provider and a second ~~carrier~~ mobile telephone service provider, comprising:

receiving an MMS message from a first ~~carrier~~ mobile telephone service provider;

querying a telephone number portability database that identifies a corresponding mobile telephone service provider for each of a plurality of telephone numbers to determine an identity of a second ~~carrier~~ mobile telephone service provider to which the MMS message is intended to be sent;

querying a carrier profile repository to access a carrier profile for the second ~~carrier~~ mobile telephone service provider, the carrier profile including information regarding an MMS format acceptable to the second ~~carrier~~ mobile telephone service provider;

transcoding the MMS message in accordance with the carrier profile to generate a transcoded MMS message; and

sending the transcoded MMS message to the second ~~carrier~~ mobile telephone service provider.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first ~~carrier~~ mobile telephone service provider is an MMS message initiating carrier.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the second ~~carrier~~ mobile telephone service provider is an MMS message destination carrier.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising preliminarily determining whether the step of transcoding is necessary.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the carrier profile repository contains carrier profiles for a plurality of carriers.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for providing multimedia message service (MMS) interoperability between an initiating ~~carrier~~ mobile telephone service provider and a destination ~~carrier~~ mobile telephone service provider, comprising:

receiving an MMS message from an initiating ~~carrier~~ mobile telephone service provider;
querying a number portability database that identifies a corresponding mobile telephone service provider for each of a plurality of telephone numbers to determine an identity of a destination ~~carrier~~ mobile telephone service provider to which the MMS message is intended to be sent;

querying a carrier profile repository to access a carrier profile for the destination ~~carrier~~ mobile telephone service provider, the carrier profile including information regarding an MMS format acceptable to the destination ~~carrier~~ mobile telephone service provider;

determining, based on the carrier profile and a format of the MMS message received from the initiating ~~carrier~~ mobile telephone service provider, whether the format of the MMS

message received from the initiating ~~carrier~~ mobile telephone service provider must be modified to be effectively received by a subscriber of the destination carrier mobile telephone service provider and, if so, transcoding the MMS message in accordance with the carrier profile to generate a transcoded MMS message; and

sending one of (i) the MMS message received from the initiating ~~carrier~~ mobile telephone service provider and (ii) the transcoded MMS message to the destination ~~carrier~~ mobile telephone service provider.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the carrier profile repository contains carrier profiles for a plurality of carriers.

8. Canceled

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising sending a short message service (SMS) message to the destination carrier to alert an intended recipient of a received MMS message when the MMS message received cannot be delivered as received from the initiating mobile telephone service provider.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising sending an email to the destination ~~carrier~~ mobile telephone service provider to alert an intended recipient of a received MMS message.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising delivering the MMS message to a legacy system belonging to the destination carrier mobile telephone service provider.

12. (Currently Amended) A system for providing multimedia message service (MMS) interoperability between an initiating carrier and a destination carrier, comprising:

A a transcoding facility comprising means for receiving an MMS message from an initiating carrier;

a number portability database, in communication with the transcoding facility and configured to determine an identity of a destination carrier to which the MMS message is intended to be sent;

a carrier profile repository also in communication with the transcoding facility and configured to access a previously-stored carrier profile for the destination carrier, the carrier profile including information regarding an MMS format acceptable to the destination carrier;

the transcoding facility configured to determine, based on the carrier profile and a format of the MMS message received from the initiating carrier, whether the format of the MMS message received from the initiating carrier must be modified to be effectively received by the destination carrier and, if so, to transcode the MMS message in accordance with the carrier profile to generate a transcoded MMS message, and thereafter send one of (i) the MMS message received from the initiating carrier and (ii) the transcoded MMS message to the destination carrier, and further configured to send a Short Message Service (SMS) message to an intended

recipient of the MMS message when the MMS message cannot be delivered as received from the initiating carrier.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the MMS message is originated from a mobile telephone.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second carriers are mobile telephone service providers.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the MMS message is originated from a mobile telephone.

16. Canceled

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the MMS message is originated from a mobile telephone.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the initiating and destination carriers are mobile telephone service providers.